

REMARKS

Claims 1-8, 10 and 12-20 are now pending in the application. Claims 1-8, 10 and 12-20 stand rejected. Claims 1, 12, 19 and 20 have been amended. Support for the amendments can be found throughout the application, drawings and claims as originally filed and, as such, no new matter has been presented. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejections in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

CLAIM OBJECTIONS

Claim 20 stands objected to for certain informalities, specifically a missing period at the end. Also, Claim 1 can be grammatically considered several ways and clearer punctuation would be helpful. Applicant has amended Claims 1 and 20 according to the Examiner's suggestions. Therefore, reconsideration and withdrawal of this objection are respectfully requested.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 1-8, 10 and 12-18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. Applicants have amended Claims 1 and 12, thus obviating the rejection.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102 & § 103

Claims 1-3, 5-8, 10, 12-14, 16-18, and 19-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Smith et al (GB Pat. No. 2 332 722). Claims 4 and 15

stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over Smith et al. in view of Palm (U.S. Pat. No. 5,183,357). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

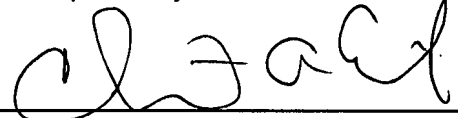
The Examiner's attention is directed to independent Claims 1, 12 and 19. These claims have been amended to include the limitation that the mandrel head defines a shoulder portion defining a bearing surface which is perpendicular to the mandrel stem. Further, the claims have been amended to clarify that the bearing surface is in contact with the opposed end of the elongated tubular body. Applicant respectfully submits that the Smith reference does not teach this limitation. As such, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejections.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action and the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1243.

Respectfully submitted,

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